

Collin County
Myers Park and Event Center Advisory Board
Minutes
October 25, 2017

Item No. 1 Call to Order

Rutledge Haggard called to order the meeting of the Myers Park and Event Center Advisory Board at 7:42 a.m. The following board members were present: Rutledge Haggard, Norman Gidney, Marianne Wells, Steven Wright, Chris Kern, and new Board Member, Lily Bao. Myers Park staff present was Judy Florence, Mark Page, Jennifer Rogers and Joanie Bishop.

Item No. 2 Introduce New Board Member, Lily Bao

Ms. Bao is excited to be part of the Myers Park Advisory Board. She believes the Park is a hidden jewel and is anxious to help promote the Park. She enjoys hearing about the Park's history and how it has been a part of Collin County's growth. She is an advocate for the Asian population to help them be more involved in the community. Ms. Bao resides in Plano.

Item No. 3 Review and Action to approve July 25, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Wright made a motion to approve the July 25, 2017 Meeting Minutes, second by Ms. Wells.

Item No. 4 Update on Farm Museum

With the Collection status, Ms. Rogers reported how Road & Bridge is in the process of moving the 5th wheel trailer to the Wells Building. Also, new signs will be made from Alpha Graphics to update exhibit labels. Currently a new exhibit layout is being designed to incorporate artifacts brought from the Baxter Barns. With the Education Program 20 programs are scheduled for October; this will help increase visitation and participation at the museum. The Homeschool Days that take place every other month was a great success and future workshops are already booked for December and February. Ms. Rogers explained they have been experimenting with "Pop Up Programs" which are programs that occur quickly in response to a visitor or workshop participant's suggestion. For October, she scheduled a wood carving class as a pop-up program, and it was booked immediately. As a result, she scheduled two additional classes due to the great response. Another pop-up program in November for Shirt Apron making and again it was booked with additional classes being scheduled for another date because of immediate interest. The museum's experiment with the educational movie nights has not proven as successful as Ms. Rogers was hoping. She will try again in the spring with different marketing approach and lower price. Ms. Rogers reported that planning is underway for the Rural Heritage Fair on May 19, 2018. She is working on advertising, the hayride shuttle, and her goal is to double the number of demonstrators and merchants.

Item No. 5 Update on recent and future events at Myers Park

Mr. Page reported this year had the largest number of events at Myers Park which brought in marked revenue. With this, our groundcrew consisting of six men have put in a great amount of work to make sure all events run smoothly. This work consists of set up and tear down of these events. Our guys had 788 events to work from start to finish this year with only three accidents. Not only do they work the events but they maintain the Park buildings and grounds, and work around the clock to accomplish all of this. They are definitely the backbone of Myers Park, and make it the gem that it is. Mr. Page explained that our groundcrew worked with the Collin County Master Gardeners to transfer a simple treed-dirt area to the new beautiful Shade Garden. This picturesque Shade Garden is fast competing with the Gazebo to be a popular outdoor spot for wedding ceremonies at Myers Park. The Open Space money help pay for the supplies, but the Master Gardeners and our guys did all the hard labor to bring this to the scenic garden it is today. With upcoming events, Mr. Page reported that Vintage Market Days will be here in November. This year Vintage Market Days will be expanding from a two-day event to a three-day event including the Stall Barn along with the Show Barn. In December we will be having several livestock shows and dog shows. January will bring the annual Collin County Jr. Livestock Show.

Item No. 6 Update on FY 2017 Approved Budget.

Ms. Florence reported that the following requested items were approved: air compressor for in the new maintenance shop, commercial countertop fryer to replace the current 20 year old fryer, trailer to transport tables and chairs to different areas in the Park for events, bin and drawer cabinets to keep irrigation supplies organized and protect against termite damage. For the Farm Museum, Ms. Florence said the following requested items were approved: a small welder, an engine hoist, and a flatbed equipment cart. These items are all for the restoration shop located at the Farm Museum since the Myers Park maintenance shop has moved to their own building a quarter of a mile away and cannot share tools any longer.

Item No. 7 Possible future agenda items

Our next Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 23 at 7:30 a.m.** at The Landing at Myers Park.

Item No. 8 Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 a.m.